

Dear Energy and Technology Committee Member,

I write this morning to encourage you to support HB 7251, which is a fundamentally critical component of any hope for a healthy future for solar in Connecticut.

In order to do its part in cutting greenhouse gases and meet our climate mandates-- the importance of which cannot be emphasized enough -- Connecticut must have strong solar policies. Central to this objective, for Connecticut as well as across the nation, is net metering; without net metering, we will never attain these important goals.

With net metering, solar energy producers (e.g., residential rooftop customers and businesses) obtain a credit for extra power that is sent back to the electric grid.

Last year, Connecticut's current net metering program was eliminated by P.A. 18-50 (SB 9), and is now on track to be replaced by two flawed policies strikingly, and unfortunately, similar to those that have killed solar jobs in other states.

The elimination of Connecticut's current net metering program:

- puts 2,200 solar jobs at risk.
- harms solar growth and puts our state at risk of missing our climate goals.
- is based on unfounded "cost shift" theory, the notion that the cost of maintaining the electric is unfairly shifted to non-solar customers. Numerous (>14) studies have amply debunked this myth (e.g., <http://solarisworking.org/blog/does-net-metering-shift-costs>), and the Brookings Institution found net metering is a net benefit to ratepayers.

There is no time, not in Connecticut, not anywhere, to fix this problem. So your Committee needs to act boldly and act NOW.

HB 7251 takes some small, helpful steps, which should be retained. Here's how you can take bolder steps and fix HB 7251 to ensure solar growth in Connecticut:

- **RESIDENTIAL SOLAR:** Connecticut's solar policies have been successful and should be continued while the value of solar analysis is done, in order to maintain the success of Connecticut's solar industry while we better evaluate new successor policies.
- **COMMERCIAL SOLAR:** Continue net metering and the LREC/ZREC program until the value of solar analysis is complete and successor programs can be reevaluated, and lift arbitrary caps on commercial solar investment that will restrict development.
- **SHARED SOLAR:** Expanding and improving the shared solar program authorized in 2018 is important to meeting Connecticut's climate mandates and making solar access more equitable. Connecticut stands to lose BIG if we don't fix this.

Sincerely,

Dr Robert Marra

109 Anderson Ave West Haven, CT 06516-6002 remathome@sbcglobal.net

